THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

MILLENNIAL STAR.

"*Hear O heavens, and give ear O earth: For the Lord hath spoken.*"—ISAIAH i, 2.

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AN EPISTLE;

BY PRESIDENT WILFORD WOODRUFF TO THE YOUNG MEN OF ISRAEL.

BELOVED Brethren in the New and Everlasting Covenant: This being my birthday, I having first seen the light of day on Sunday, at ten o'clock, on the morning of the first day of March, 1807, making me eighty years of age this day, and also having the honor of being appointed by the Presidency of the Church Superintendent of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Associations throughout these mountains of Israel—in view of these circumstances, I feel that I am authorized to give my brethren, the young men of Israel, some counsel and instruction. But I cannot satisfy my own mind without the inspiration of the Lord.

I have been a member of the Church over fifty-three years. I held the office of a Teacher one year; the office of a Priest one year; the office of an Elder one year; the office of a Seventy two years, and have held the office of an Apostle forty-eight years. I do not speak of this boastingly, for when the Lord chose me for an apostle, one passage of Scripture was certainly fulfilled—He chose one of the weak things of the world.

I have traveled in the ministry during this time, 145,000 miles, through England, Scotland, Wales, six islands of the sea, twenty-three of the United States, and five Territories, including the Rocky Mountains. I have crossed the Atlantic Ocean four times, have held 4,191 meetings, and preached 3,200 discourses. Through my instrumentality the Lord added to the Church in 1840, in the south of England, one thousand eight hundred souls in eight months' labors, among whom were nearly two hundred preachers of the various sects. Fifty of the preachers belonged to the United Brethren, who had broken off from the Wesleyan Methodists. This society of United Brethren numbered six hundred, all of whom were baptized, except one person. I baptized one thousand of these one thousand eight hundred. The others were baptized by Priests and Elders whom I had ordained.

In my travels I have established

seventy-seven preaching places, organized fifty-one Branches of the Church, confirmed 3,343 members of the Church, ordained one Apostle, and united in ordaining eight others. I have ordained twenty-three Patriarchs, and assisted in ordaining eighty-four others. I have ordained ninety-three High Priests. I have ordained twenty-four High Councilors, and assisted in ordaining seventy-four others. I have ordained fifty-seven Seventies, and six hundred and sixty-seven Elders, and assisted in ordaining four thousand three hundred and forty-seven Elders. I have ordained twenty-three Bishops and seventeen counselors to Bishops. I have ordained four hundred and forty-six Priests, sixty-six Teachers, and fifteen Deacons. I have set apart and blessed one thousand and thirty-four missionaries, and assisted in setting apart four thousand five hundred and twelve other missionaries. I have blessed several hundred children. I have administered to one thousand one hundred and fifty sick persons by the laying on of hands and anointing with oil; rebuking diseases and evil spirits in the name of Jesus Christ; and many have been healed by the power of God, devils have been cast out, the dumb caused to speak, the deaf to hear and the lame to walk, and the sick have been raised up by the power of God and not of man.

I have kept a daily journal for fifty-three years, and reported many of Joseph Smith's sermons and prophecies, also many sermons of the Apostles and Elders, and kept a general account of events as they have occurred around me. Through the blessing of God I have had the privilege of baptizing my father, step-mother, and only sister, with many other relatives, into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I have also held the keys of the dead of my father's house, and, through the mercy of God and the assistance of my friends, I have been enabled to redeem some three thousand souls of the Woodruff, Hart and Thompson families, through the ordinances for the dead, for which I feel to praise the Lord. For as Paul says: "Why are you baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all?"

Thus I have given you a few extracts from my journal, which is only a limited account of the labors of one man out of thirty Apostles, one hundred and fifty Patriarchs, some five hundred High Priests, five thousand Seventies and twenty thousand Elders, besides the Lesser Priesthood, and two hundred thousand members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Now, with these reflections resting upon my mind, and knowing that the work and labor in the Church and Kingdom of God will augment and increase from this time forth with greater rapidity than it has ever done until the coming of the Son of man, and thoroughly comprehending the fact that myself, with many of the leading men and fathers in Israel will soon pass to the other side of the veil, my spirit is ready to cry out, "Where, O where, O Lord, is the material which thou hast ordained to step forth and take our places and the places of the fathers in Zion, to take the Church, the Zion and Kingdom of God, and bear it off triumphant, and prepare it as the Bride, the Lamb's Wife, for the coming of the great Bridegroom?" I will confess that I know not where to look for this element, if it is not to be found in the young men who dwell in these mountains of Israel. I am satisfied it can not be found anywhere else upon the face of the whole earth.

With this great fact and eternal truth standing boldly before my face, what can I say to my young friends, young brothers, young men of Zion? You are stepping forth into manhood as members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Many of you are already bearing the holy priesthood and officiating in its various offices. Many of you have parents who have labored faithfully to build up the Church and kingdom of God on the earth, and have finished their testimony, and to-day are in the spirit world. Many of you have parents still living who will soon close their testimony and also pass away. So far as I am concerned, having reached my four score years, I do not know that I shall ever be permitted again in the flesh to meet with the young men in Zion, in the capacity of a

Mutual Improvement Association, or in their public assemblies. So far as that is concerned, it mattereth not. But I wish I had power to express myself as I feel to the children, to the young men and women of the Latter-day Saints, who dwell in these mountains. I wish the veil could be lifted from off their eyes, that they could see what lies before them, that they could see their destiny, that they could see unto what they are ordained. I wish, my young friends, that you could comprehend the magnitude and value of the great work which the God of heaven is about to place upon your shoulders. Could the visions of your minds be opened to see the great work your heavenly Father, the Father of your spirits, ordained you to before the world was, to enter into the flesh on the earth in the last days, and take the kingdom of our God and bear it off triumphant, and prepare it for the coming of the Son of Man! I say, if you could see these truths and comprehend them, you would labor with all your might, mind and strength to prepare yourselves and qualify yourselves, not only with the priesthood, but with the powers of that priesthood and with the power of God to enter into the ministry and labor by faith, that you may be able to stand true and faithful to God and to your covenants. For you stand on the earth in the day when the judgments, wrath and indignation of Almighty God are about to be poured out upon the wicked of all nations.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world—the light that shineth in darkness, and the darkness comprehendeth it not. Neither does this generation comprehend the work of the Latter-day Saints. I do hope and pray that you, my young brothers in the ministry, will call upon the Lord in mighty prayer, that you may be clothed upon by the power of God, that you may be able to lead the way for the rising generation in which you live to walk in the path that leads to eternal life and salvation, that you may have an inheritance in the celestial kingdom of God.

The great work the Lord has set His hand to perform in the last days will not stop. The Lord will not disappoint this generation in the fulfillment of His words, any more than He did in other ages. Any person who is in the possession of the Spirit of God, sufficient to discern the signs of the times, can see clearly that the revelations of God in the Bible, Book of Mormon, and Doctrine and Covenants are being fulfilled, and they will all be fulfilled to the very letter, and to the very end. The Christian Gentile world to-day are very fast rejecting the Gospel of life and salvation, sent unto them by the revelation of Jesus Christ, through the administration of angels in fulfillment of the revelations of St. John. The present crusade against the Saints in Utah, the late act of our government in yielding to the public clamor of the priest and the people, the pulpit and the press, in passing laws to take away the civil, religious and political rights from two hundred thousand Latter-day Saints because of their religion; and for the rulers of this great republican government to trample under their feet the most sacred principles of the Constitution to gratify the clamor of our persecutors, is enough to pall the heart of every reflecting mind throughout the world. Would the rulers of our nation have taken such a step against any other people on earth, except against the Church of Jesus Christ and the kingdom of God on the earth? They would not.

The God of Heaven established the American government for a wise purpose in Himself, and gave our forefathers a glorious Constitution by inspiration, the best Constitution ever given to a human government, as a rich legacy to be handed down to posterity. Will not that same God hold the rulers of the nation responsible, who trample that Constitution under their feet and break it in pieces for the purpose of destroying a people, who are seeking to build up the Church and Kingdom of God on the earth? He most assuredly will. Our nation by these acts is turning the last key that will seal its condemnation and destruction. For the Lord has decreed it in the revelations ever given upon this subject.

Now, my young brethren, I want to say to you that you are about to step

forth upon the stage of action in the beginning of the revolution, changes, and judgments which are about to overwhelm and engulf our nation and the nations of the earth. You are bound to take the offices, places and responsibilities of those whose heads are blossomed for the tomb and will soon pass away. Therefore I am anxious for you, the boys and young men in Zion, to see the necessity of beginning immediately to prepare yourselves for the work that lies before you. You are the lawful heirs to the Priesthood. The Lord has called and ordained you to His work. You need not heed the scoffs or ridicule of the persecutors of the Saint. Their unbelief will not make the truths of God of none effect. The day is at hand when the blasphemers will hold their lips.

My young brothers, you have no time to lose or throw away. Solomon says there is a time for all things. I think the time has come when our young men should call upon the Lord in prayer and labor to obtain the Holy Ghost as their constant companion, and seek out of the best books, by study and by faith, to treasure up knowledge, wisdom and understanding. There is a day of mourning and lamentation approaching the earth. I want the young people, as well as their parents, to be prepared for it. Yet the Lord will defend Zion and establish His kingdom, and bring off His Saints victorious.

I wish my young brethren to keep in mind that our aim is high. We are aiming for a place in the celestial kingdom of God, to obtain eternal life, the greatest of all the gifts of God to man. All the honor, glory and wealth of this world should sink into insignificance in our minds in comparison with an inheritance in the presence of God and the Lamb, with all the prophets, apostles and saints, including our father's house. While one is fleeting and soon passeth away, the other endureth forever.

The Lord has said by revelation that there are but two churches, one is the Church of God, and the other is the church of the Devil, and all who do not belong to the Church of God belong to the church of the Devil. None but the Elders of the true Church of Christ will preach the true Gospel of Christ. There is but one Gospel of Christ, never was and never will be but one. St. Paul said: "Though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other Gospel unto you, than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." That Gospel is a gospel of faith in Jesus Christ, repentance of sins, baptism in water by immersion for the remission of sins, and the reception of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands. This Holy Ghost is the Testimony of the Father and the Son, and is promises to all those who receive the Gospel and obey its ordinances.

I wish all our young people to become thoroughly acquainted with these first principles of the Gospel of Christ, and become qualified to teach them to their fellowmen. I pray God, my Heavenly Father, to bless and sustain all the teachers, superintendents and members of the Primaries, Sabbath Schools and Mutual Improvement Associations, and that the rising generation of the Latter-day Saints in these mountains may be inspired to pursue that course, whereby they will honor God and their parents, and be counted worthy to stand in the flesh at the coming of the Son of Man, and be prepared to meet the Lord when He comes in the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory, to reward every man according to the deeds done in the body, which is the earnest prayer of your brother in the New and Everlasting Covenant.

WILFORD WOODRUFF.

He who would do some great thing in this short life must apply himself to the work with such a concentration of his energies as, to idle spectators who live only to amuse themselves, looks like insanity.

Nothing can be done right and efficiently without order and system, from the boiling of an egg to the management of the heaviest business or enterprise. There is a routine even in our daily personal habits. He is considered a safe man or woman whom you always know "where to find."

PAINFUL IGNORANCE.

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THE following dispatch has been going the rounds of the press, having originated in Chattanooga, Tennessee. It refers to the company of immigrants that recently reached Utah:

"Three hundred Norwegian emigrants passed through this city Saturday night, for Salt Lake City, whither they go to join the Mormon colonies in the west. They came by way of Norfolk and are the most respectable emigrants who have arrived in this city for many a day. The party is composed of men, women and children, and they all seemed intelligent, were well dressed and appeared to have money. They seemed to regard Utah as possessing all the riches of the promised land. They are accompanied by several Mormon leaders, who have been in Norway on a proselyting tour. Many of them, however, do not seem to understand the polygamous nature of the Mormon faith, and several of the women when told they were liable to become the wives of men already wedded to other wives, opened their eyes and renounced all intentions of ever submitting to such a proceeding. Many of them have been deluded into coming into America and espousing the Mormon faith."

This telegram contains one singular statement: that the immigrants are respectable, that all seem intelligent, and reasonably well-to-do. Heretofore our immigrants have been published as poor serfs, filthy and the most ignornant. Ever since the immigration of Latter-day Saints to this region began, the great bulk have come from honest, hard-working and thrifty classes of society. They have been intelligent above the average, far beyond the average in respectability, and their thrift here has shown that they must have been well-to-do beyond those in their own grade. They have made good citizens and blessed this western country by their presence.

In spite of these facts, they have been referred to by the press and pulpit generally as vile, filthy, ignorant slaves, paupers whom the "Mormon" Church and its emissaries have tempted to come to this land where their servitude would be more vile, if possible, than it had been in the lands they were tempted to leave. This has been the story, and on the strength of such debasing statements has been circulated the further untruth that "Mormon" converts knew nothing about the "polygamous" tenet of the "Mormon" Church. Now we find papers publishing a good character of the immigrants, which is marvelously unusual; but hanging tenaciously to the theory that they are deceived, particularly regarding the subject of a plurality of wives.

The name of the Latter-day Saints is known among all nations. Let one of its missionaries proclaim himself anywhere in the civilized world, and before him will arise a horde of opponents, all of whom profess themselves capable of telling more of the "Mormon" faith and its polygamous tenet than the most zealous Elder could be. Among the nations of the earth, save with rare exceptions, "Mormonism" and "polygamy" have become synonymous terms, and the bare idea of any person being converted to the faith, and immigrating without having heard that the "Mormons" were the "scum of the earth," the vilest because of this tenet, is so laughingly absurd that it is impossible to think any one can seriously believe it.

There is not a convert to the "Mormon" faith, that is not acquainted with all its fundamental principles, and if there is one thing that missionaries are required to do more than another, it is to avoid the very appearance of deceit. Those who emigrate to Utah are told that God has blessed His people in worldly things; but they are also told that His Saints have been driven, robbed and killed; that His servants to-day are being harrassed by unjust laws iniquitously enforced, and they are promised, as a reward for their obedience to the principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, that they will be persecuted and tried till their hearts are sore enough. These are the allurements that are offered people in foreign lands to come hither and

cast their lot with the Saints in the Rocky Mountains. This is the manner in which they are "deceived." Every immigrant of years of accountability knews this fact, and he knows further, that the ostensible reason for the persecution of the Latter-day Saints is because of the principle of plural marriage in which they believe; though the real reason is found in Paul's inspired words: "Yea, all who will live godly in Christ Jesus, must suffer persecution."

Moreover, it is a little surprising that intelligent women—as the dispatch declares them to be—should be deceived on a subject of such world-wide publicity. If they are deceived, there is not much to be said for their intelligence. If they are intelligent, the charge of deception is extremely shaky. It will ever be found that those who write on "Mormonism" from an inimical standpoint, are nothing if not contradictory. This is due to a painful ignorance of the subject and of its aims and principles. It is painful because, in the main, inexcusable; because the ignorance is wilful. "They love darkness rather than light," and they will be rewarded accordingly. The doctrines of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are doing more than trying the devotion of the Saints to principle—they are giving to the world at large an opportunity to make a record, and many are the unwise ones who seem anxious to make their unsavory records conspicuous. Trials imposed by men upon others work both ways—they test the temper of those tried and revealed the characters of those by whom the trials are imposed, and also make manifest the desires of those who are spectators to the affair. What the world are pleased to term "Mormonism," is a great work. The discovery that is so will sometime cause loud lamentation among men now prominently identified in the attempt to secure its overthrow.—*Deseret News.*

IN MEXICO.

LIBERAL TERMS TO COLONISTS—FAVORABLE PROSPECTS—JUAREZ, ETC.

We clip the following letter from the *Deseret News*:

1a Calle De Soto, No. 2,
City of Mexico, May 4, 1887.

The last Mexican colonization law is a very liberal one and well calculated to give a strong impulse to colonization in this country. It provides, among other things, that all colonists shall be exempt for a period of ten years from all military service, import duties, all taxes except municipal, and that they may be transported free of charge over any subsidized railroad or steamer on their way to the colony. Under certain conditions the government will also advance them means to build their homes and pay each adult from the public treasury twenty-five cents a day, and children half that amount, until they are thoroughly established and can sustain themselves. Besides this, liberal premiums are offered for the planting of trees, and each colonist must receive a certain portion of land, for which a nominal price must be paid within ten years.

With a view of taking advantage of the clause relating to the free transportation of colonist, Apostle Erastus Snow and Moses Thatcher instructed me some time age to prepare a list of all the worthy native Saints that wished to gather to the colony. Accordingly I visited nearly every Branch of the Church in the Mission and succeeded in preparing a list of about sixty persons.

This list was presented to the proper departments and in due time received executive approval, and orders were issued for their free transportation over the Morelos R. R. to this city, and the Mexican Central to San Jose station, Chihuahua. All being thus arranged satisfactorily, I left this city on the 23rd ult., for the purpose of gathering up those who do not live in or near the city. I was absent ten day, visited six branches, held six meetings, baptized nine, rebaptized one, and gathered together between thirty and forty persons who desired to go to the colony, and conducted

them to this city, arriving at 4 p.m. day before yesterday. Elder W. W. Cluff, Jun., met us at the depot with a vehicle to transfer the baggage to the Mexican central station, where the company were joined by several families from this city and vicinity, and all left for Chihuahua on the evening train, in charge of Apostle Erastus Snow, and Elder Heleman Pratt, who had come down from the colony about four weeks ago to attend our conference, transact important business here, and conduct the company back with them. The journey on board the train will last three nights and two days, and the company will arrive at San Jose to-morrow morning, where they will be met by brethren from the colony with abundant teams and supplies to carry them to their destination, about 150 miles a little northwest of San Jose, which they will probably traverse in four days after leaving the train.

The most of those forming this, the first company of Saints that has ever been gathered from this republic, are from the large sugar farms of the Tierra Caliente, where they have been accustomed to work hard for the exceedingly small wages of from 18 to 31 cents a day on which to sustain their families. They seem to be humble, honest and industrious, and are greatly pleased with the opportunity of gathering where their condition will be improved both temporally and spiritually. The officials of the government also expressed much pleasure in extending their assistance to establish a company of Mexican citizens in the colony, for nearly all the colonists in the republic are foreigners.

The uniform courtesy and good will manifested by President Diaz, his cabinet officers, and other authorities toward the brethren who have had negotiations with them in the interests of the colony, are indeed gratifying, and the treatment accorded our people who have come to this Republic, forms a striking contrast to that received in their own country. Here, instead of bonds and imprisonment, we have freedom and protection; instead of confiscation and robbery, this government offers substantial aid and exemptions from burdens placed upon her citizens; instead of impeding the gathering of Israel, public means pays their transportation; instead of publishing lies and base misrepresentations against us, the press, with few exceptions, praises our thrift, industry and superior methods; instead of desiring and predicting our destruction, the colony is encouraged with flattering assurances of rapid growth and future success; instead of disfranchisement and political bondage, we are made Mexican citizens and accorded all the rights on the acquisition of real estate here, or on the birth of a child within the Republic, unless we declare our desire to retain our own nationality.

I enclose an extract from a recent issue of the *Riqueza Nacional*, an influential paper published in this capital, which will give an idea of the present condition of the colony, though I will say that the machinery mentioned as about to arrive, is now on the ground, and much more that was purchased at the same time.

Quite a large tract of land has been bought, with a view of establishing a number of towns on it. Two towns, "Juarez" and "Porfirio Diaz," have already been commenced and are growing rapidly and appear to have a bright future.

Reducing to actual practice the doctrine of the gathering, has attracted considerable attention, and I think will result in the opening up of new fields of labor in the mission, and many will doubtless be led by it to investigate our principles. The work of the Lord is steadily gaining grouud in this land and I believe the time is not far distant when a good harvest will be reaped.

Yours, respectfully,

HORACE CUMMINGS.

No one can hold up his head with a joyous sense of freedom while he has debts that he cannot pay and liabilities that he cannot meet. If the "borrower is servant to the lender," much more is the debtor servant to the creditor. There is no slavery more abject, no chain more galling, than that which debt gradually winds around its unconscious victim.

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR.

MONDAY, JUNE 6, 1887.

A CHRISTIAN ARGUMENT APPLIED TO "MORMONISN."

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Archdeacon Paley, in his admirable work on the "Evidences of Christianity," says:

"If the Reformers in the time of Wickliffe, or of Luther; or those of England in the time of Henry VIII; or of Queen Mary; or the founders of our religious sects since, such as were Mr. Whitfield and Mr. Wesley in our own times, had undergone the life of toil and exertion, of dangers and sufferings, which we know many of them did undergo, *for* a miraculous story; that is to say, if they had founded their public ministry upon the allegation of miracles wrought within their own knowledge, and upon narratives which could not be resolved into delusion or mistake; and if it had appeared that their conduct really had its origin in these accounts, I should have believed them."

All writers who have taken up the defense of the Christian religion have regarded the miraculous incidents connected with the ministry of Christ and His immediate followers as proof absolute of its divinity. Quite unmindful of the fact that there are other agencies than divine, capable of working miracles. Every one will readily call to mind the skill and power of the Egyptian magi who contended with Moses before Pharaoh in producing miracles. Their productions were in imitation of and nearly as great as those of the prophet of God; yet no one believes the miracles of the Egyptian magi were divine.

Jesus was cautious to warn His followers not to put too much confidence in miracles as absolute proof of the divine calling of the worker thereof, by telling them—

"There shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect" (Matt xxiv, 24).

Again it is written in the visions of John:

"I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty" (Rev. xvi, 13, 14).

The same writer, in the 13th chapter of his Revelations, speaks of an evil power that—

"Doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in

the sight of men, and deceiveth them that dwell on the earth, by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast."

In the light of what is here set down, it will be readily seen that the individual who is educated to put his trust in miraculous manifestations as proof positive of the divine calling of a person working the miracles, is very likely to be among those who will be deceived by these wicked spirits and false prophets to whom is given the power to work miracles and deceive the nations. It will also manifest the weakness of the argument of those Christian writers who insist that because the story on which their religion is founded is miraculous, it must therefore be of divine origin.

The healing of the sick, opening the eyes of the blind, cleansing the lepers, enlarging the substance of a few loaves and fishes until they become sufficient to feed a multitude, may indeed be taken as proof of the divine power of the Son of God, but they are collateral rather than direct. Taken in connection with the other facts which go to prove the divinity of the Messiah's mission, they are very strong evidences in His favor, but considered by themselves, they fall very far short of being absolute, since agencies other than divine ones are capable of producing phenomena, which, for the reason that the cause is hidden, and we see only the result, we call miracles.

Yet notwithstanding these observations there is very much reasonableness and force in the statement of Mr. Paley, to the effect that if such men as Mr. Whitfield and Mr. Wesley—men whose veracity and integrity was above question, and whose honor was untarnished, had endured the life of toil, and danger and suffering through which they passed "for a miraculous story, that is to say, if they had founded their public ministry upon the allegation of miracles, wrought within their own knowledge, and upon narratives which could not be resolved into delusion or mistake; and if it had appeared that their conduct really had its origin in these accounts," we know not how one could escape believing them.

Mr. Paley's position is this: The early Christians came before the world with a miraculous story; their public ministry was founded upon the allegation of miracles wrought within their own knowlede, and upon narratives which could not be resolved into delusion or mistake; their conduct really had its origin in these miraculous accounts; and in support of their declarations they endured lives of toil, poverty, persecution, danger and suffering; and for these reasons Mr. Paley, with the grand majority of Christians, believe the statements of the New Testament writers—to which we say amen! most heartily; and ask good Christians everywhere to apply the same reasonable test to the miraculous story upon which what the world call "Mormonism" is based.

But first, we must inform our readers that what is known to them as "Mormonism" is founded upon a miraculous story—as that phrase is generally understood. In the year 1820 the boy Joseph Smith, in obedience to the divine injunction in the Epistle of James—

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth to all men liberally and upbraideth not, and it shall be given him—

retired to the woods to ask for wisdom, to enquire which of all the contending sects of religion was acknowledged of God as His Church—which one

gave a correct exposition of the plan of salvation that he might become connected with it. And in answer to that prayer, the heavens were opened and the youth beheld the Father and the Son. The Son being introduced to him by the Father, answered his question in relation to the religious sects of the day, and informed him that none of them were His Church or kingdom; that the Gospel had been corrupted, the law thereof transgressed, the ordinances changed, and the covenant broken; that their creeds were an abomination to Him, and that His authority was not with them. The youth was strictly commanded to join none of them.

Three years subsequent to this first revelation, this same young man received the visitation of an angel, who said that he was one of the ancient prophets that lived among the ancient inhabitants of America. He had been resurrected from the dead, and was now sent to him to reveal the existence of a record of the ancient inhabitants of the American Continent; which contained not only an abridged history of those people and the source from whence they sprang, but also contained the fullness of the Gospel as taught to them by the inspired servants and prophets of God who lived among them, and by the glorified and risen Redeemer who had visited them, after leaving His disciples in Palestine.

The plates upon which this record was engraven were first shown to Joseph Smith on the 22nd of September 1823; and four years later he received them at the hands of the heavenly messenger to translate into the English language, by means of a Urim and Thummim that had been hidden up with them. A man by the name of Oliver Cowdery, attracted by the story of Joseph Smith having the metalic plates, enquired him out, believed the declarations the boy prophet made to him, and assisted in the work of translation by becoming the scribe of the young man who dictated to him the translation. The work of translation was completed in 1829.

Besides the testimony of the youthful prophet to the existence of this ancient record, is that of his scribe, Oliver Cowdery; David Whitmer and Martin Harris. The same heavenly messenger who revealed the existence of the record, exhibited the plates to these three men; and there were eight others to whom the Prophet Joseph himself showed the plates, and who handled them and examined the engravings thereon, and all these bear witness to what they had seen and handled.

Both Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery testify that in May 1829, while in the woods engaged in prayer, a messenger from heaven came to them, and placing his hands upon their heads, conferred upon them the Aaronic Priesthood, which gave them authority to preach repentance and baptize in the name of Jesus Christ for the remissions of sins, and there began their ministry

The same men testify that subsequently three other heavenly messengers visited them—*viz.*, the Apostles Peter, James and John; and conferred upon them the holy apostleship, which gave them authority to lay on hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost, to organize the Church of Christ, to confer the same power upon others, and thus build up the Church in all the world, and prepare the way for the glorious appearing of the Redeemer to reign with the righteous over the whole earth.

The foregoing is the miraculous story upon what the world call "Mormon-

ism—but what in reality is the restored Gospel of the Son of God—is based. And upon examination it will be found that it fulfills all the conditions laid down by Mr. Paley—and which, if fulfilled in the case of modern reformers, as that eminent scholar conceived them to be fulfilled in the case of the first introduction of Christianity, he said "he would have believed them." Consequently, had Mr. Paley lived to have heard the miraculous story of "Mormonism;" had he examined into the circumstances connected with it; and had he applied the same excellent reasoning to "Mormonism" that he does to Christianity, he would have accepted it as true. So also would all men who accept the Christian story upon the conditions named by the learned Doctor.

But let us see if "Mormonism" fulfills the Doctor's conditions:

First, then, the story is miraculous. It deals with direct revelations from God, the visitation of angels, the translation of an ancient record by the inspiration of God; receiving authority from heavenly messengers to preach the Gospel, which is to be attended by all the gifts and graces ever enjoyed by the Saints.

Second: The first Elders of this institution known as the Church of Jesus Christ, founded their public ministry upon the allegation of these miracles.

Third: The miracles wrought were within their own knowledge, a number of them being both eye and ear witnesses to the miraculous manifestations, both seeing the angels and hearing their voices—nay more—feeling the hands of the heavenly messengers as they were laid upon their heads.

Fourth: The miracles cannot be resolved into delusion or mistake. Unless the eye, ear and the sense of touch can be deceived, not only once, but repeatedly, and in the same manner.

Fifth: Their conduct, that is their preaching the new dispensation, and other acts growing out of it, really had its origin in these accounts we have related.

And now, after filling all these conditions laid down in Mr. Paley's argument, there remains but one thing to set forth to make it complete, and that is, did these first movers in the new dispensation endure lives of toil, care, exertion, danger and suffering for their miraculous story? The fact is so generally known that they did, that it scarcely becomes necessary to answer the question.

No sooner did Joseph Smith declare to men that he had received a divine manifestation, than persecution was arrayed against him, and continued to dog his footsteps nearly every day of his eventful life. Now throwing him into the hands of an infuriated mob to be whipped, beaten, tarred and feathered; then into the hands of a mob-militia, sent by authority to destroy his people, who condemn him to be shot in the presence of his family; delivered from that peril to be dragged to a loathsome prison in chains for weary months; escaping thence to be harassed with malicious and vexatious lawsuits arising from false accusations; now betrayed by false brethren; now kidnapped by his old enemies; and at last murdered with his brother Hyrum in cold blood, while under the protection of the Governor of the sovereign State of Illinois, who had plighted the faith of the State for his protection.

In the midst of all these cares and sufferings he was organizing the Church; bringing into existence and setting in order the quorums of the priesthood of

God; sending Elders to preach the Gospel to the world without purse or scrip; founding cities, building temples, translating ancient records, laboring in season and out of season for the general good of the children of men.

In all these labors he was seconded by the first Elders who had shared with him the miraculous manifestations of heaven, to declare which was the cause of all this toil, danger and suffering. They wandered from city to city and from land to land with the miraculous story. Enduring scorn, revilings, abuse, and not unfrequently personal violence, and sometimes death; until in comparison the toils and sufferings of Whitfield and Wesley, together with all other reformers since the days of Jesus and His apostles, pale into insignificance. And even to this day the same spirit of intolerance, and the same relentless persecution follows the footsteps of those who believe the miraculous story on which "Mormonism" is founded.

All the conditions laid down then, by Mr. Paley, are fulfilled in "Mormonism;" and in this particular feature of his argument the Doctor would find as much to convince him of the truth of "Mormonism" as he would of the truth of primitive Christianity.

We would remind our readers in conclusion, that the miracles upon which the new dispensation called "Mormonism" is founded, are of such a character that the witnesses could not be mistaken. What they declare they saw and heard must be true, and they the honored servants of God, or else they are the vilest wretches that ever lived and conspired to destroy the souls of men. If any one shall choose to believe the latter is the truth concerning them, then he must also believe them to be—"villains for no end but to teach honesty, and martyrs without the least prospect of honor or advantage." R.

ARRIVAL.—Elder James Clove arrived at Liverpool on Thursday, June 3rd, per S.S. *Arizona*. He is appointed on a mission to Scandinavia.

RELEASES AND APPOINTMENTS.—Elder William F. Rigby is released from the Presidency of the Newcastle Conference, and appointed to labor in the Manchester Conference.

Elder Charles F. Foster is released from traveling in the Manchester Conference, to return home by the June 18th company, on account of ill health.

Elder Selden I. Clawson is appointed to the Presidency of the Newcastle Conference.

PRESIDENT George Teasdale returned from a visit to the Newcastle Conference on Wednesday afternoon, the 1st inst. He left Liverpool on Saturday the 28th ult., and arrived in Newcastle in the evening. He was met at the station by President Rigby and the Traveling Elders of that Conference. They went to Blaydon-on-Tyne and spent the evening. On Sunday attended Conference at Newcastle, holding three meetings. On Monday visited the Newcastle Exhibition with a party of the Saints from Stockton. On Monday evening held a meeting at Sunderland. On Tuesday visited Durham, and held a meeting at Spennymoor. He reports a good spirit in the Conference, and an encouraging outlook for the coming season.

WE have received from the *Juvenile Instructor* Office the fourteenth book of the Faith Promoting Series, entitled "Helpful Visions." Besides containing

a number of experiences, such as might be expected from its title, there is also an article of great merit on Traitors. The book will doubtless do good service by increasing the faith of those who puruse it.

Two weeks ago we published a letter copied from the *Deseret News* giving an account of the rapid spread of the work of the Lord among the Maoris of New Zealand, who are doubtless of the House of Israel. This week we publish a letter clipped from the same paper, giving an account of the success of the colonies of the Saints in Mexico, and the gathering of the Mexican Saints to them, to which we invite the attention of our readers. The work begins to move with giant strides among these branches of the House of Israel. The Lord is beginning to remember the covenants that He made to the old Nephite prophets, and is beginning to restore the remnants of their descendants to His favor; and by that token we know that the times of the Gentiles are approaching their fulfillment, and that Israel will be wholly redeemed.

UTAH NEWS.

(Summarized from Territorial Papers.)

Logan, Cache County, is considering the question of opening a city park.

Governor West has appointed D. W. Moffat, of New York, a commissioner of deeds for Utah.

The case of Joseph H. Dean for polygamy was tried before Judge Henderson in Ogden, and was concluded on the 14th of May, resulting in the discharge of the accused. It has been a hotly contested legal fight.

There is some talk of enforcing the Edmunds-Tucker law in the District of Columbia, in which is located the City of Washington, the capital of the nation. It is held by the Prosecuting Attorney for the District that the law applies to the District of Columbia as well as to the Territory of Utah. The Washington *Post* says: "The District Attorney has discovered a law which, if strictly enforced, would go far toward improving the morals of the District. It is what is known as the 'Utah law,' which was passed as an amendment to the so-called 'Edmunds bill,' for the suppression of polygamy in Utah, but which is applicable to all the Territories and to the District of Columbia. The advantage of this law over others dealing with the same evils is, that it falls with greater weight upon the man than on the woman."

The following is from the Salt River Valley, Arizona *News*, of April 23rd: "The mode of the Mormon Church missionary work is peculiar to itself, and it is acknowledged by all that theirs is the most effective corps of religious workers in the field. The missionaries selected are usually young men, not necessarily well educated, experienced in 'the ways of the world,' unskilled in the arts of rhetoric, but with a fervor and enthusiasm in their cause. They invariably have better success than the more placid and polished reasoners. Two young men of Mesa—David Hibbert and Hiram Morse, have recently been sent to Tennessee on a mission, and two others, Sylvester Collett and John Rogers, knowing nothing of Spanish, are in the City of Mexico, working

in the interest of their faith. The missionaries are self-supporting, living as did the apostles of old. There seems to be many commenable features in this system."

D. B. Stover, registrar in Tooele County, makes the following report to Secretary W. C. Hall: "For the information of the Honorable Commission, I beg leave to make a report of the progress in registration for some of the precincts in Tooele County. I began registration in Stockton precinct, and to my surprise, six of the first ten I asked refused to register, and all of the ten are Gentiles. I finished going through the precinct, and found about twenty-five who refused to register—all Gentiles, but two or three. At one mine, of four men there, I got one. The fact is this, that in a mining community there are a great many who do not like to take any oath. Blank oaths were sent me by the league committee, and I am satisfied from inquiry that if they had been presented, from 40 to 50 per cent. of the Gentile voters would have refused them. As it is, 20 per cent. refused the oath of the Commission. I registered 119 in this precinct; at Grantsville 87 registered, and at Tooele 115. Only a few Mormons refused to register."

There are now about one hundred men at work on the Temple Block, engaged in the work of cutting the granite blocks and erecting them into position on the building. This is irrespective of the force at work quarrying the stone. The side walls are practically finished, and the eastern towers of the Temple have reached an altitude of one hundred and twenty-seven feet from the surface of the ground. The western towers, on which the masons are now at work, will probably be brought to the same level inside of a fortnight. Estimating on the present rate of progress, it is probable that the whole of the rock work on this massive building would be finished by the end of 1888 or early in 1889. The Big Tabernacle was at one time the most conspicuous feature of the landscape in any view taken of Salt Lake City, but even now, in its present unfinished condition, the massive granite masonry of the beautiful Temple stands, like Saul among the prophets, towering far above every other structure of the surrounding landscape.

On the 10th of May, Brother Miner G. Atwood died at his residence in the Twelfth Ward, Salt Lake City, from a gradual failing of health continued through the last five years. Elder Atwood was born in Mansfield, Pollard County, Connecticut, March 18, 1823. He embraced the Gospel on the 21st day of July, 1849, being baptized by Cyril Brown. He emigrated to Utah in 1850, with President Woodruff's company. He was chosen a Counselor to the late Bishop L. G. Hardy in 1856, and went on a mission to the Southern States in 1857. Again he went on a mission to South Africa in 1862, leaving May 21st, and returning in the fall of 1865. His last mission was to Arizona in 1874. Brother Atwood was also a member of the High Council of the Salt Lake Stake of Zion, being called to that position at the April Conference in 1869. Before he was prostrated with sickness, Elder Atwood was an energetic officer of the Church, and was well known for his zeal and integrity. He was valiant for the cause in which his whole soul was enlisted, and has gone to enjoy that rest which is the promise of the faithful.

The Utah Courts since the passage of the late Edmunds-Tucker law have been loath to admit "Mormons" to the privileges of citizenship, and have plied the applicants with numerous questions relative to their belief in revelation, and if God should give them a revelation hereafter, if they would consider themselves bound to obey that revelation, notwithstanding the law of the land might forbid it, etc. When men refused to bind themselves by an oath for all time to come respecting such matters, or have expressed themselves to the effect that they would under such circumstances consider themselves bound to obey the law of God, they have been denied admission to citizenship. In view of this conduct of the Courts, Hon. John T. Caine, Utah's Delegate to Congress, at the special Conference of the Salt Lake Stake of Zion, held on the 8th of May, presented the following Preamble and Resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

"*Whereas*, Congress has passed a law prescribing an oath to be taken by the citizens of Utah Territory, as a condition precedent to registering, voting, holding office, or serving as jurors: and

Whereas, the discussions in Congress while the said law was pending, showed plainly that the intention of the law-makers was that the said oath should not interefere with the rights of conscience or religious belief: and

Whereas, some of the courts of this Territory, in the selection of jurors, have departed from both the letter and spirit of the law, and have required to be taken a form of oath that is not authorized by said law, because of its infringement upon the domain of conscience and religious belief; and

Whereas, on application to a court of this Territory, of certain persons for naturalization, the applicants were questioned, by the presiding judge, as to their membership in a particular Church, their belief in certain of its doctrines, and what would be their course of action should they receive a revelation from God in regard to the same; and having declared their belief in Divine revelation, they were arbitrarily denied the privilege of citizenship, solely on account of their religious belief, although they declared their intention to support the Constitution of the United States and obey the laws, and signified their willingness to take all the oaths required by law: and

Whereas, the Constitution of the United States provides that no religious test shall ever be imposed: therefore, be it

Resolved, That we, members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, residents of Salt Lake County, Utah Territory, in Conference assembled, do enter our solemn protest against such inexcusable and unwarrantable infringements upon the rights and liberties of the people. We hold that if these outrageous abuses of power are permitted to go unchecked, they will endanger the most sacred institutions of our country, and we appeal to all lovers of freedom to discountenance these unconstitutional proceedings as antagonistic to the fundamental principles of our government, and violative of the rights of American citizens in their enjoyment of freedom of conscience and religious liberty."

To the true girl in all her relations—as daughter, sister, friend—in all her actions, in all her words, faithfulness will be the first consideration. Faith is the root of all good works, and it is a fruitful parent of all other graces. Her word must be her bond through life. A true girl will not make a promise and break it, nor say one thing and mean another, but will be true in word and deed.